For thousands of years the Eurasian steppes have been a centre of human migrations and cultural change. Here we sequence the genomes of 137 ancient humans (about 1× average coverage), covering a period of 4,000 years, to understand the population history of the Eurasian steppes after the Bronze Age migrations. We find that the genetics of the Scythian groups that dominated the Eurasian steppes throughout the Iron Age were highly structured, with diverse origins comprising Late Bronze Age herders, European farmers and southern Siberian hunter-gatherers. Later, Scythians admixed with the eastern steppe nomads who formed the Xiongnu confederations, and moved westward in about the second or third century bc, forming the Hun traditions in the fourth-fifth century ad, and carrying with them plague that was basal to the Justinian plague. These nomads were further admixed with East Asian groups during several short-Term khanates in the Medieval period. These historical events transformed the Eurasian steppes from being inhabited by Indo-European speakers of largely West Eurasian ancestry to the mostly Turkic-speaking groups of the present day, who are primarily of East Asian ancestry.

General information
State: Published
Organisations: Department of Bio and Health Informatics, Metagenomics, Disease Intelligence and Molecular Evolution, Universite Paris 7, Leiden University, Stanford University, Buketov Karaganda State University, Shejire DNA project, University of Oslo, Manas University, Irkutsk State University, Mongolian University of Life Sciences, National University of Mongolia, Tsarist State University, Explico Foundation, Ulaanbaatar State University, Hashemite University, Russian Academy of Sciences, A. Kh. Margulan Institute of Archaeology, National Museum of Denmark, Peter the Great Museum of Anthropology and Ethnography, Archaeological Expertise LLC, The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Ministry of Public Health, Russian-Armenian University, Slovak Academy of Sciences, State Historical and Cultural Reserve-Museum (ISSYK), University of Gothenburg, University of Copenhagen, University of Cambridge, Krygz National Academy of Sciences, Kostanay Regional Local History Museum, Centre for Baltic and Scandinavian Archaeology, S. Toraighyrov Pavlodar State University, University of Arizona, Charles University, Kostanay State University, University of Alberta
Pages: 369-374
Publication date: 2018
Peer-reviewed: Yes

Publication information
Journal: Nature
Volume: 557
ISSN (Print): 0028-0836
Ratings:
BFI (2018): BFI-level 3
Web of Science (2018): Indexed yes
BFI (2017): BFI-level 2
Scopus rating (2017): CiteScore 14.59
Web of Science (2017): Impact factor 19.181
Web of Science (2017): Indexed yes
BFI (2016): BFI-level 2
Scopus rating (2016): CiteScore 13.33
Web of Science (2016): Impact factor 19.304
Web of Science (2016): Indexed yes
BFI (2015): BFI-level 2
Scopus rating (2015): CiteScore 14.38
Web of Science (2015): Impact factor 17.184
Web of Science (2015): Indexed yes
BFI (2014): BFI-level 2
Scopus rating (2014): CiteScore 14.22
Web of Science (2014): Impact factor 14.547